(b) The rules governing the appointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents have been notified in the Gazette of India Extra-Ordinary No. 579 dated 5-12-1985.

Revenue and Maintenance Cost of Shatabdi Express

583. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what is the maintenance cost and revenue from Shatabdi Express per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Train-wise statistics of maintenance cost and earnings are not maintained by the Railways.

National Highway in Kerala

584. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conventional declaration at the time of National Road Congress of converting a road as National Highway was implemented in the case of Kerala;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) There is no such convention to declare a National Highway at the time of holding the session of Indian Roads Congress.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Opening of new passport office in Kerala

585. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new regional passport office is proposed to be opened in Kerala considering the workload and the delay in issuance of passports from the Cochin Regional Passport Office; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TIWARI): (a) and (b) The workload in most Passport Offices in India has increased during 1988. There is no major delay in issuance of passports from the Cochin Regional Passport Office. In order to ensure issue of passports with efficiency and consistent with security requirements, the working of the Passport Offices including Cochin, is kept under constant review. There is no decision to open a new Regional Passport Office in Kerala.

Cancellation of Flights of Gulf countries from Trivandrum and Bombay

586. SHRI M. A. BABY. Will the Minister CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of flights cancelled to Gulf countries from Trivandrum and Bombay during the last two months and the passengers dislocation due to it: and

(b) the alternate arrangements made available for the stranded passengers and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Forty two flights to Gulf countries were cancelled from Trivandrum and Bombay during the last two months.

(b) The passengers of the cancelled flights to the Gulf Countries from Trivandrum were accommodated in local hotels and sent from Trivandrum on other flights via alternative routes to their destinations.

National Scholarship

587. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to enhance the rate of National